

**Claims:**

1. A yarn measuring device (1), in particular for freehand measurements, having a housing (2) which has a handle (4) with an actuating device (6), having a yarn catcher (8), which is supported movably between two positions (I, II), of which one is a tuck position (I) and the other is a measuring position (II), and is connected to the actuating device (6) via an actuating mechanism (33), having a yarn guide element (23), which is disposed at a point between the two positions (I, II), and having a yarn tension meter (31), which is disposed at a point between the measuring position (II) and the yarn guide element (23).
2. The yarn measuring device of claim 1, characterized in that the yarn catcher (8) has a pivotably supported lever (9), which on its free end has a yarn guide element (16).
3. The yarn measuring device of claim 2, characterized in that the yarn guide element (16) is a rotatably supported yarn spool (17).
4. The yarn measuring device of claim 1, characterized in that the measuring position (II) of the yarn catcher (8) is defined by a stop means (22).
5. The yarn measuring device of claim 1, characterized in that the yarn guide element (23) is a rotatably supported yarn spool (24), which is connected to a sensor (25).
6. The yarn measuring device of claim 5, characterized in that the sensor (25) is a rotary position sensor or an rpm sensor.
7. The yarn measuring device of claim 1, characterized in that the yarn tension meter (31) has a yarn applicator element (27), which is connected to a force sensor (29).
8. The yarn measuring device of claim 2 and 7, characterized in that the yarn applicator element (27) is a pin, which extends essentially parallel to the pivot axis (19) of the lever (9) and is supported by the force sensor (29).
9. The yarn measuring device of claim 1, characterized in that the yarn tension meter (31) is connected to a processing device.

10. The yarn measuring device of claim 9, characterized in that the processing device is connected to a display device.

11. The yarn measuring device of claim 9, characterized in that the processing device is connected to a control switch, whose control knob (10) is disposed on the handle (4).

12. The yarn measuring device of claim 11, characterized in that the control switch is a knob/pushbutton.

13. The yarn measuring device of claim 10, characterized in that the processing device, for setting up various operating modes on the display device (5), furnishes a menu-oriented input.

14. The yarn measuring device of claim 1, characterized in that the processing device has an interface (51) for receiving external signals.

15. The yarn measuring device of claim 1, characterized in that the processing device has an interface (51) for outputting signals to an external device.

16. The yarn measuring device of claim 1, characterized in that the housing (2) has two elongated legs (3, 4), which form an obtuse angle with one another.

17. The yarn measuring device of claim 16, characterized in that on its free end (7) one of the legs (3, 4), has the yarn catcher (8), and the other leg (4) serves as the handle.

18. The yarn measuring device of claim 1, characterized in that a battery compartment (46) for at least one supply battery (47, 48) is disposed in the handle.

19. The yarn measuring device of claim 18, characterized in that the battery compartment (46) has a closure lid, which simultaneously forms the actuating device (6).

20. The yarn measuring device of claim 19, characterized in that the actuating mechanism (33) is in positive engagement with the unactuated actuating device (6) by means of a locking bar (41), in order to secure the actuating device in place.

21. The yarn measuring device of claim 20, characterized in that by the actuation of the actuating device (6), the locking bar (41) is moved transversely to a portion (44) of the actuating device (6), in order to unlock the latter.